

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA. THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1916.

Will Support the Nominees

The following paragraphs are from the Key West Journal of the 14th inst.:

"If Catts is the Democratic nominee for governor, the Republican nominee will have a fine chance."

"If the Republican nominee for governor takes the stump and goes after the job, Florida will have a Republican governor."

"We seriously doubt if the voters in the recent primary will stick by the Democratic nominee for governor, if it is Catts."

The Herald begs to assure the Journal and any Republican or independent aspirant for the governor's office that the Democrats of Florida will stick to the Democratic nominee, whoever he may be. They need a dose of bad medicine, and The Herald at least will do all it can to induce them to take it and that, too, without any lemon juice in it. If they take it now, as they have sworn to do and will do, it will have a fine effect four years hence.

And speaking of four years hence, The Herald serves notice right now that it will have nothing to do with any primary hereafter that may be conducted under the present Bryan primary law and it will not be bound by the results of such a primary. The Herald accepts results this time and will give loyal support to the nominees, but it will certainly not be so foolish hereafter as to bind itself by a scheme, a system or a law that enables 32,000 out of 75,000 men to name the candidates for whom we all shall vote. Over 40,000 of us, including Senator Bryan himself, got caught in the Bryan trap this time, but, four years from now, it is not likely that there will be as many as 40,000 grown-up male fools in Florida.

The Jacksonville Free Press of the 15th was simply a journalistic riot; it was provocative of insurrection, and all because it imagined that somebody designed to steal the gubernatorial nomination from Brother Catts. The paper insinuated that threats of assassinating Mr. Catts had been made. Nonsense! Even though Mr. Catts is the choice of less than a third of the qualified Democrats of Florida, as the returns show, nobody proposes to cheat him out of the nomination or to kill him. What ought to be killed is the Bryan primary law, which effected Mr. Catts' nomination.

Editor Jordan reiterates that the newspapers have no influence in a campaign. But he will kindly note, in most cases, the candidates who did the newspaper advertising got elected. — Tampa Tribune.—Yes, but there's a difference between the editorial and the advertisement. Tribune editorials and advertisements both have great weight, but paradoxical effects of the former were seen in the defeat of Sparkman, whom the Tribune opposed, and in the defeat of Allie Angle and Charlie Brown, whom the Tribune supported. Queer, wasn't it?

The esteemed Times-Union we think is in error about its having been Alachua precinct in Alachua county that figured so prominently in the Hayes-Tilden contest. Was it not Archer precinct in the same county?

State Division

A State divisionist is but one remove from an anarchist. He is an alarmist; a catastrophist; an ex-crescence; a carcinoma upon the civilization, which for its stately tolerance and forbearance, permits him to linger on his little, rapid existence. — The Florida Record, Tallahassee.

Why exhaust the dictionary, Brother Felkel, in your effort to save Tallahassee from the perennial "innocuous desuetude" to which it is doomed? Or did you write the above simply to astonish your readers with your knowledge of lexicographical expletives, carcinoma, for example?

Lay your dictionary aside for a moment and learn that a large majority of the people of Florida wish the state divided and they have most excellent reasons for their wish. Some of them are given in an article from the Miami Herald, which is printed elsewhere in this paper. They may be briefly stated as follows:

That part of Florida lying west of Jacksonville and from there to Pensacola and north from the northern boundary of Alachua county belongs ethically and logically to southern Georgia or southern Alabama, because its industries, its needs and the characteristics of its people are identical with those of South Georgia and South Alabama and wholly different from those of South Florida.

To reach the present capital, two-thirds of the people are put to unreasonable inconvenience, expense and loss of time. It would be better for them to have the capital at Savannah, Ga.

The creation of an additional state would add to the South's representation in congress, giving us two more United States senators and maybe two additional representatives. It would also give South Florida one of its greatest needs, lower freight rates, because, if South Florida is made a separate state, inter-state commerce rates would apply to it. As things are now, the interstate rates end at Jacksonville and the higher intra-state rates apply to all shipments south of Jacksonville.

There are plenty of good, sound, unanswerable reasons why South Florida should be cut off from the northern and western portions of the state and made into a separate and independent state, and it is only a question of time when this will be done.

Editor Jordan's home folks stood by him splendidly, giving him 200 votes to 28 for his opponent; but Arcadia, in his home county, gave Crawford a majority. — Tampa Tribune.—Crawford's kin folks in Arcadia, as well as in nearly every county of the state, were a big help to him. But Jordan carried his home county by 228 majority.

Aetna and his hounds, Icarus and his wings and a few other striking illustrations are suggested by the defeat of Senator N. P. Bryan. He was the author of that famous "progressive" measure known by his name, the Florida primary law, a political engine that passed like a steamroller over its creator and smashed his political future.

Don't blame Brother Catts; blame the fool law under which he was nominated.

The Primary a Failure

Owing to some very unsatisfactory, not to say ridiculous results of the contest of the 6th inst., several newspapers, notably the Jacksonville Metropolis, demand the repeal of the Florida primary law and a return to the convention system of nominating candidates. The demand is supported by good reasons, and The Herald would be glad to join in it but for the fact that its editor was defeated in the late primary and it might be imagined that his opposition is instigated by disappointment. Nevertheless, he will risk the suspicion by stating the reasons for his opposition to the system, as they involve the fundamental principles of our system of government as framed by our forefathers and advocated by Thomas Jefferson, the apostle of Democracy in America.

First, it was never intended by the founders of this government that United States senators even, much less the president, should be chosen by direct vote of the people. Representative government was the underlying principle of the whole thing.

What does that mean? That representatives chosen by the people should elect the senators and the president. It was never contemplated that the people should vote direct for these officials, but they were given the privilege of selecting by direct vote their representatives in the lower house of congress. The constitution of each state was modeled upon this idea and plan. For over a hundred years, it worked well; the wisdom of our forefathers was demonstrated by the fact that the methods suggested and adopted by them gave us good government.

And the constitution and methods of government established over a hundred years ago, were adopted by the Democratic party in the state and nation and proved eminently satisfactory until, in these later years, there arose a number of pseudo-reformers calling themselves Progressives, who, thrusting themselves into both of the great political parties, moved by a lust for office and power, employed the artifices of the demagogue and succeeded in substituting for the spirit of our government and the principles of Thomas Jefferson a system that would enable them to deceive and mislead the people and place themselves in power.

This was and is the primary election system, which has just been tried out in Florida and found to be the greatest political fraud of the age. By it, 32,000 voters out of 75,000 named a governor for a million of people. A bare majority of them named a United States senator. Not only this, but where four or five candidates were running for the same office, the voters who cast both their first and second choice votes for any except the two "high men," lost their votes and were practically disfranchised. Thus there were thousands who had absolutely no voice in naming the candidate for governor or United States senator, state comptroller or railroad commissioner.

It is not intimated that the nominees are not good and capable men, but it is demanded to know wherein the results prove the truth and force of the demagogues' battle-cry, "The people shall rule." No one can deny that the results show that a minority can and does rule and that this minority may be influenced by the wiles of demagogues.

The old convention system in Florida never produced such results, never gave us demagogues or corrupt men for officials, never made us appear to the world as a lot of political simpletons.

In conclusion, The Herald approves the suggestion of Judge Wills of Gainesville, that we have a convention to nominate state officials and frame a platform and that the counties be given an improved primary system for the nomination of county officials.

DeSoto and Lee counties should emulate Polk and Hillsborough and improve their highways. Good roads are the greatest asset South Florida can possibly have. — Tampa Tribune.—Whatcha talking about, colonel? Surely you know that DeSoto county is today spending \$750,000 in building good roads.

Since Carter and Russell have resumed ownership of the Jacksonville Metropolis, that paper has greatly improved in interest and has increased its influence. There's much vim and expression in it now.

Lick 'Em Quick

It seems that a war with Mexico is unavoidable. Such being the case, The Herald earnestly hopes that our government will make it as short as possible. To this end, an overwhelming army of not less than 1,500,000 men should be immediately organized and despatched to that God-forsaken country. Such an army could settle the whole business in a year; whereas, it would take 250,000 men three to five years to accomplish the same result.

Let's "whip 'em quick" and do it thoroughly—and make 'em pay for it!

Gilchrist has explained "how it happened," and so have Senator Bryan and Gov. Trammell, but not a word have we from Perry Wall. He is speechless.

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Florida Times-Union:—The primary that was to make the majority omnipotent has resulted in making one man boss.

Tallahassee Record:—Florida was settled in the seventeenth century and has been unsettled ever since.

Miami Metropolis:—The state democratic committee might do the right thing by the public and publish an itemized account of its receipts and expenditures.

Ocala Banner:—We predicted that all sorts of mischievous things would be the outcome of the Bryan primary law, but our worst fears have been more than realized.

Lakeland Telegram:—There certainly is something the matter with a law that permits a little over 20,000 votes to elect the Governor of a state with over a million population.

Lakeland Telegram:—Whoever is chosen governor will be the choice of only about one-fourth of those voting in the primary, instead of the preference of a majority. Such are the workings of our primary election law.

Ocala Star:—Various reasons are advanced why Congressman Sparkman was defeated in the recent primary. Seems to the Star that one reason was that he didn't have enough postoffice appointments to go around.

Thorn in Palm Beach Post:—That excellent publication, "Our Dumb Animals," contains a very interesting article on "the Marvelous Speed of Dogs"—but I've noticed that Catts can cut off some records when once they get started good and plenty.

Ocala Star:—Editor Jordan of the Punta Gorda Herald, is not tummyaching about his defeat for the office of secretary of state. Editor Jordan is a man of broad mind and cheerful spirit. If the people of Florida won't give him an office, they lose more than he does.

Ocala Banner, June 14th:—If we had been permitted to have a second primary between Catts and Knott, the former would have been left on first base; so we will have to charge up Mr. Catts' nomination, if it be true that he is nominated, to the author of this bill.

Miami Metropolis:—The Metropolis believes that Catts will make a forceful executive, and that the state will be better for his governorship, but his election was accomplished by the blunders of his enemies more than by the power of his own personality and platform.

Tampa Tribune:—Bryan's primary system has proven a great farce. The Tribune has not heard a good word from any source for it. It will eventually eliminate the poor man from politics. The defeated candidates are unanimous in their denunciation and aver that they will never try it again.

Lakeland Telegram:—Tom West and Cary Hardee, it is said, are already in training for the next gubernatorial contest. Mighty good men, but we are afraid they have been in the state too long and are lacking certain characteristics which seem necessary to success in present day Florida politics.

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4. The bank reserves the right to require 60 days' notice of intention to withdraw sums in excess of \$100, and 30 days' notice on smaller amounts. Under ordinary conditions deposits will be paid on demand.
5. These rules may be changed or amended at any time by publishing a notice thereof for one week in a newspaper published in the County in which the bank is located or by mailing a notice to the last known address of each depositor, provided that any amendment changing the rate of interest shall not become effective till the beginning of the next succeeding interest period.
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